

Lau Laka language

Laka of Lau is the only Central Sudanic language spoken in Nigeria. It is most closely related to Kabba Laka of Chad. The Hausa refer to the Laka people of Lau as *Lakawa*. The language was only recently documented in the mid-2010s, and had been previously misclassified as a Mbum language along with Lau.^{[3][4]}

Distribution

Laka speakers live in Laka ward of Lau LGA (Hausa: *Angawan Lakawa*; formerly *Garin Lakawa* ‘Laka town’), Taraba State, eastern Nigeria.^[3] They live alongside the Win Lau (or *Lau proper*; formerly *Lau Habe*), who are Jukunoid speakers.^[5]

Lexical comparison

The following table compares Laka (Lau) and Laka (Chad), both of which are Central Sudanic languages, with Lau proper, a Jukunoid language.^[3]

English	Laka (Lau)	<u>Laka</u> (Chad)	<u>Lau</u> proper
animal	dā	/dā/	néwku
cow	mǎŋgɛ̃	/mǎŋgɛ̃/	nāw
chicken	kũndʒá	/kũndʒá/	zǎw
man	ɖɛ̃ŋgàw	/ɖɛ̃ŋgàw/	jĩnènwò
medicine	kùmā	/kùmā/	gāj

Lau Laka	
Laka	
Native to	Nigeria
Region	Lau LGA, Taraba State
Language family	Nilo-Saharan? <div> <div><div>Central Sudanic</div> <div>Bongo–Bagirmi</div> <div>Sara–Bagirmi</div> <div>Sara languages</div> <div>West</div> <div>Lau Laka</div></div> </div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	lak ^[1]
Glottolog	laka1252 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/laka1252) ^[2]

References

1. Still misclassified in Ethnologue (22nd ed.) and Glottolog 4.1.

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Laka of Lau (Nigeria)" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/laka1252>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

3. Idiatov, Dmitry, Mark Van de Velde, Tope Olagunju and Bitrus Andrew. 2017. *Results of the first AdaGram survey in Adamawa and Taraba States, Nigeria* (http://idiatov.mardi.myds.me/talks/2017_CALL_AdaGram_Survey_Results.pdf). 47th Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics (CALL) (Leiden, Netherlands).

4. Blench, Roger (2019). *An Atlas of Nigerian Languages* (4th ed.). Cambridge: Kay Williamson Educational Foundation.

5. Blench, Roger. "The Central Sudanic languages in the context of Nilo-Saharan: a new overview" (https://www.academia.edu/33011913/The_Central_Sudanic_languages_in_the_context_of_Nilo-Saharan_a_new_overview). *Academia.edu*. Retrieved 25 August 2018.

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